3rd September 1928]

Names of villages in Godavari and Kistna districts selected for collection of statistics regarding mortgages.

* 28 Q.—Mr. D. Narayana Raju: With reference to paragraph 37 of the scheme report for the resettlement of Godavari and Kistna districts, will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state what are the names of villages selected for the collection of statistics relating to mortgages?

A.—The Government have not the names of the villages. The Settlement Officer has been asked to report them.

Depressed Classes

Acquisition of house-sites for the depressed classes.

* 29 .Q.—Mr. C. Marudhavanam Pillai: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any Government Order was issued last year regarding the acquisition of house-sites by the Labour Department for agricultural labourers;

(*b*) whether the Government Order above referred to specified that in future house-sites should be acquired only for the agricultural labourers of the Adi-Dravida community and not for labourers of other castes;

(*c*) whether the Government are aware of the acquisition by the Labour officers in the Tanjore district of house-sites for labourers other than those of the Adi-Dravida caste; and if so, whether Government propose to take any action in the matter; and

(*d*) whether Government will lay on the table of this House a copy of the Government Order in question together with complete statistics up to date showing the total number of house-sites acquired since the date of the issue of this Government Order, and also how many of these were for Adi-Dravidas and how many for members of other castes?

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) & (*d*) Do not arise.

(*c*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to question No. 1585 at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 27th February 1928.

Labour

Condition of labourers in Malabar, Coimbatore and Nilgiris districts.

* 30 Q.—Mr. J. A. Saldanha: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Labour Commissioner or any Magistrate visited any of the plantations on the hills in Malabar, Coimbatore and Nilgiris districts during the year 1927–28 and enquired into and ascertained the condition of the labour population and the amenities of their life;

(*b*) if so, what reports they have made and what action Government have taken on them; and

(*c*) whether it is a fact that there are yet several plantations on those hills in which the ordinary essential requirements as to lodging, medical provision and other amenities of life are not attended to?

[3rd September 1928

A.—(*a*) The Government have no information.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to clauses (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) of question No. 1427 at the last session of the Council. Steps have been taken to remedy the defects brought to notice in the case of the estates in Malabar referred to therein. No other cases have come to the notice of Government.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I point out to the hon. the Home Member that I sent this question on the 16th July and it was passed on to the department about the 31st July. . . . . "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member is requested to confine himself to any supplementary question arising out of the answer given here."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" My supplementary question is why Government could not get the information asked for earlier. They have taken a month to give such an evasive answer as " The Government have no information."

The hon the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member cannot put a supplementary question characterising an answer already given."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" I want to know what difficulty the hon. the Home Member had. He says ' The Government have no information.' Is it because the Labour Commissioner sent no report ? The Labour Commissioner had been asked to go round certain districts. So when he made a tour he ought to have visited some of these plantations on the hills and made a report to the Government."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" Not necessarily."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Did not the Labour Commissioner submit a report ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" He did not send it because the Government did not ask for it."

Motor Vehicles Act

Control and regulation of motor traffic in Madras City.

* 31 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) what steps have been recently taken for the better control and regulation of motor traffic in Madras City and in the mufassal ; and

(*b*) how far these have resulted in reducing the number of accidents ?

A.—(*a*) A number of proposals are at present under the consideration of Government.

(*b*) It is not known how far the steps that have already been taken have reduced the number of accidents

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—" The Government say they have taken ' some steps ' in answer to clause (*b*) of this question. I want to know what the actual steps are."